AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-31 without prejudice and please add new claims 37-66 as follows:

1.-31. (Canceled)

32. (Original) A freight management method for arranging for shipment of a load from a shipper by a carrier, based on shipping data and carrier data supplied by the shipper and the carrier, respectively, the method comprising:

inputting into the central processing system a request for bids from the shipper for shipping the load;

electronically transmitting an invitation to bid for shipping the load from the central processing system to a plurality of carriers;

electronically receiving bids at the central processing system from at least some of the carriers for shipping the load;

electronically transmitting to the shipper a bid report with bids received from at least some of the carriers receiving the invitation to bids; and

electronically receiving from the shipper a bid selection of at least one of the bids.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of responding to the bid selection by electronically transmitting a name and a phone number of the corresponding one of the carriers to the shipper.

34. (Original The method of claim 32, wherein

the invitation to bid is first transmitted from the central processing system to a third party, who then communicates the invitation to bid to a plurality of carriers in locations remote from the central processing system; and

wherein the bids for at least some of the carriers are electronically received at the central processing system from the third party.

35. (Original) The method claim 32, wherein the step of electronically transmitting an invitation to bid further

includes electronically transmitting invitations for bids for a plurality of loads to an individual carrier.

36. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the step of electronically transmitting to the shipper a plurality of bids further includes electronically transmitting to the shipper bids for a plurality of loads from a plurality of carriers.

37. (New) A method of buying or selling a product through a computer system wherein the product comprises either a good or a service, the method comprising:

making a plurality of invitations to bid from a plurality of buyers available to a plurality of sellers on the computer system for electronic access by the sellers;

making a plurality of bids from a plurality of sellers available to buyers on said computer system for electronic access by the buyers;

in response to receiving a plurality of bids from a plurality of sellers for a product requested by a buyer, making an analysis of the bids and generating a first report that ranks the bids according to at least one predetermined criterion stored in the computer system;

transmitting the first report to the buyer without the buyer having to initiate communication with the computer system; and

wherein the buyer can select one of the bids and communicate an acceptance to the computer system, which will then notify the other party of the communication to complete the sale.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein

in response to receiving a plurality of invitations to bid from a plurality of buyers, making an analysis of the offers to invitations to bid and distributing the invitations to bid to sellers according to at least one predetermined criterion stored in the computer system; and

transmitting the second report to the seller without

the seller having to initiate communication with the computer system.

39. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein forms containing the invitations to bid can be stored in the computer system, and revised with indicators by adding a letter suffix to the system number to save re-inputting the forms to the computer system.

40. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein invitations to bid can be imported in large numbers from existing computer databases through the use of electronic transfer programs.

41. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein a duplicate of a invitation to bid on the computer system is transmitted from the computer system to a third party intermediary;

wherein the third party intermediary is unable to change any data or information of the original invitation to bid except for the list of potential sellers for receiving the resulting request to buy from the third party intermediary; and

wherein the computer system indicates on an original of the invitation to bid and on the duplicate that they are being communicated to potential sellers at the same time.

42. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein

the plurality of invitations to bid from a plurality of buyers available to a plurality of sellers on the computer system for electronic access by the buyers includes making loads available to carriers on an electronic bulletin board accessed through the computer system; and

wherein making a plurality of bids by a plurality of sellers available to buyers on said computer system for electronic access by the sellers buyers includes making prospective scheduled carriers available to shippers on an

electronic bulletin board accessed through the computer system (10).

43. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the invitations to bid are provided by transportation shippers and wherein the bids are provided by transportation carriers and wherein the computer system electronically selects invitations to bid or bids in groups of seven and orders the bids or invitations to bid based on price and other factors.

44. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the reports to the buyer are accessible on the computer system through a carrier bulletin board and the reports to the seller are accessible on the computer system through a shipper bulletin board.

45. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising maintaining a master bulletin board of all data on the computer system which further comprises publicly accessible shipper bulletin boards and publicly accessible carrier bulletin boards and private access networks that have limited access.

46. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising bulletin boards with line items including items for sale and line item link buttons on said bulletin boards for directly accessing other data provided by the buyers and sellers.

47. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein available transportation equipment and planned trips, as well as loads, can be entered into the system with qualifications and descriptions as line items in lists of items.

48. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein invitations to bid and bids transmitted to the buyers and sellers, respectively, do not indicate the identity of the buyers and

the sellers, respectively, thereby allowing anonymity of each and requiring selections to be based on individual qualifications and price.

49. (New) The method of claim 37, further characterized in invitations to bid and bids transmitted to the buyers and sellers, respectively, do not indicate the identity of the buyers and the sellers, respectively, do indicate the identity of the buyers and the buyers, respectively as the participants are already associated with or contracted to each other, thereby eliminating the need for anonymity.

50. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein a third party can initially submit a bid to a buyer of $0.00 or use a decline button indicating that for whatever reason the request to buy has been reviewed but has been declined, or the third party can initially bid $1.00 or use an accept button to indicate that the reviewed request to buy will be handled and that the final bid and/or rate will be forthcoming, so that the buyer will not have to submit the request to buy to another carrier.

51. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein bids by sellers for re-locating empty containers can be positive dollar amounts, zero or negative dollar amounts which would indicate that the seller would pay the buyer to move the empty container.

52. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the invitations to bid, bids and reports are transmitted by facsimile as facsimile data files and are converted on a receiving end using an optical character recognition program.

53. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein invitations to bid, bids and reports are transmitted over the Internet.

54. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein invitations to bid, bids and reports are transmitted in a data file via e-mail.

55. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the invitations to bid, bids and reports are created through interactive voice response.

56. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of inputting carrier profile data into computer system wherein the carrier data includes carrier identification data, carrier contact data, carrier service area data, carrier intermodal capabilities data, load type services data, carrier type data, carrier annual revenue data, carrier employee size data, carrier on-time and damage-free delivery ratings data, carrier equipment data, special services data, carrier commodities hauled data, carrier financial condition data, hazardous license data, carrier driver data, carrier insurance data, carrier rules and charges data.

57. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the invitation to bid (19) can be compared with seller profile data previously input to the computer system to select a group of qualified sellers to receive the invitations to bid.

58. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising inputting buyer profile data into the computer system, wherein the buyer profile data includes identification data, contact data, annual revenue data, number of employees, and financial data.

59. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the invitation to bid includes seller qualifications to make a bid.

60. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising individual buyer and seller bulletin boards which can be

customized by the buyers and sellers to the requirements of the buyers and sellers, respectively.

61. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising displaying multiple windows providing the display of a plurality of bulletin boards including at least two of the following: a bulletin board for transportation loads, a bulletin board for available transportation equipment, a bulletin board for trips, a bulletin board for products, and a bulletin board for warehousing services.

62. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising private access networks with access to the computer system, each private access network requiring input of individual member numbers and authorization codes for access to the computer system.

63. (New) A freight management system for arranging for shipment of a load from a shipper by a carrier, based on shipping data and carrier data supplied by the shipper and the carrier, respectively, the system comprising:

a central processing system;

means for making a plurality of invitations to bid from a plurality of shippers available to a plurality of carriers as a shippers bulletin board on the computer system for electronic access by the carriers;

means for making a plurality of bids from a plurality of carriers available to shippers on said computer system as a shippers bulletin board for electronic access by the shippers;

said shipper's bulletin board and said carrier's bulletin board are integrated together into a master bulletin board on the central processing system that is publicly accessible parts of which can be viewed by member of the public;

and wherein said master bulletin board also includes private bulletin boards that are only accessible by a limited

number of parties having proper identification and passwords for access.

64. (New) The freight management system of claim 63, wherein the central processing system includes at least one central processing unit and a communication interface to the Internet.

65. (New) The freight management system of claim 63, wherein the central processing system includes at least one central processing unit, a memory for storing a database of shipper profile data and carrier profile data, and a communication interface to the Internet.

66. (New) The freight management system of claim 63, wherein the central processing system includes at least one central processing unit, a memory for storing a database of shipper profile data and carrier profile data along with all of the individual load, equipment, product, services and the resulting transactional process and system, network, site integration data, and a communication interface to the Internet.